

## How to Finish Well 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Paul wrote from prison with a sense that death was near. His two letters to Timothy were designed to equip and challenge him to follow Paul's footsteps into faithful ministry (2 Tim 4:5).

Consider that in this stage of Paul's life, he didn't appear to have a successful ministry in the eyes of the world (4:9-16). But what Paul DID have was the presence of Christ and His abiding strength and peace and the hope of eternal life (4:17-18). Note how Paul finished well:

### I. **No Fear 4:6; Phil 2:17; Mat 25:41**

#### 1. **His life was in God's hands**

We live in a world where people are FULL OF THEMSELVES. But in Philippians 2 we read that Christ EMPTIED HIMSELF of His rights of deity in order to fulfill the will of the Father, even if it meant going to the cross.

#### 2. **His death would be a blessing**

The Greek word ANALUPSIS ("departure") had a variety of meanings:

- It implied freedom
- It implied going home (2 Cor 5:1-2)
- It implied a change of destination (Phil 1:21-23)

### II. **No Regrets 4:7**

#### 1. **He fought the good fight**

The Greek word AGOWN ("agony") implies that to experience victory in the battle it requires effort, hard work, discipline and struggle (2 Cor 11:23-27; 2 Cor 4:17; Rom 8:37). The fight for the Christian is on three fronts:

- 1) Hostility from the world Acts 9:16; Col 1:24
- 2) Struggles with his own flesh Rom 7:21-23; Gal 5:16
- 3) Battle against Satan and his principalities and powers Eph 6:10-13

#### 2. **He finished the race Acts 20:24**

God had set for Paul a specific course (an apostle to the Gentiles). Note three essentials to run well and reach the finish line:

- 1) Self-Discipline 1 Cor 9:24-27
- 2) Self-Denial Heb 12:1
- 3) Savior-Focused Heb 12:2

#### 3. **He kept the faith ("the faith" = the truth of the Scriptures)**

Note two ways in which Paul kept the faith:

- 1) He never lost confidence in the power of the Scriptures 1 Cor 15:3-4; Rom 1:16

- 2) He guarded the truth as a good steward of the treasure given to him 2 Cor 4:1-2; Phil 1:13-14

### III. No Hesitation 4:8

“Henceforth” = LOIPON – “what remains”. Paul knew that death wasn’t the end. He looked forward to leaving this earth and seeing Christ.

Paul’s confidence was based on his faith in the righteousness of Christ:

**1. At salvation we receive the righteousness of Christ 2 Cor 5:21**

**2. After salvation we strive to live out that righteousness Rom 6:13**

**3. At death we are crowned with righteousness 1 John 3:2**

Note that one of the marks of a true Christians is one who loves the appearing of Christ. And he longs for that to happen (Phil 3:20).

#### Study Questions:

1. If you facing death, what would be the last words you would want to leave with your loved one?
2. Why do unsaved people fear death? Why do some Christians fear death?
3. Note the phrase in 2 Timothy 4:17, “but the Lord stood with me.” Share a time in your life when you felt alone and fearful but were strengthened by the Lord’s presence.
4. Consider Paul’s words, “I have fought the good fight.” How does our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christian culture expectations contradict with Paul’s perspective of the Christian life?
5. From the following verses, how are we to experience victory over the world, the flesh and Satan?
  - “the world” – 1 John 2:15-17
  - “the flesh” – Colossians 3:1-17
  - “Satan” – 2 Cor 2:11; 1 Pet 5:8
6. What hinders Christians today from persevering in their faith?
7. What prevents Christians today from “loving Christ’s appearing?”

January 2024			
Week 1 Starting January 6	Week 2 Starting January 13	Week 3 Starting January 20	Week 4 Starting January 27
Day 1: Luke 6	Day 1: Luke 10	Day 1: Luke 14	Day 1: Luke 18
Day 2: Luke 7	Day 2: Luke 11	Day 2: Luke 15	Day 2: Luke 19
Day 3: Luke 8	Day 3: Luke 12	Day 3: Luke 16	Day 3: Luke 20
Day 4: Luke 9	Day 4: Luke 13	Day 4: Luke 17	Day 4: Luke 21
Day 5: John 12:44-50	Day 5: John 13:1-20	Day 5: John 14:1-14	Day 5: John 14:15-31
<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. <sup>2</sup> Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. <sup>3</sup> When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. <sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord. “And you forgave the guilt of my sin.			
Psalm 32:1-5 (NIV)			